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Rpts 8

Assistant Director for Research and Reports

30 January 1958

Chief, Geographic Research

Items of Significant Accomplishment by the Geographic Area During the Last Six Months of Calendar Year 1957

1. Reflecting increased United States Government concern over activities in Antarctica, there has been continuing surveillance of Soviet programs in this area. Summaries, descriptions, and analyses of Soviet Antarctic achievements and implications relative to their long-range intentions as they may affect United States interests in Antarctica have been prepared as briefing materials for the DCI for his briefing of the National Security Council. Active participation in the Working Group on Antarctica of the Operations Coordinating Board has resulted in the preparation of intelligence leading to an assessment of Soviet plans, activities, intentions and capabilities to be used in the preparation of United States operational planning and coordination of activities in Antarctica. Other Soviet plans and activities related to their participation in the IGY have been the subject of constant surveillance, analysis, and evaluation, leading to estimates of implications of Soviet capabilities in science, data collection, and military end-use application.

2. A long-standing awareness of the importance of target positioning to guided missile operations has led to the estimating of a comparison of the probable U.S. and U.S.S.R. geodetic accuracies between ICBM launch sites and targets. To further examine Soviet capabilities in relating guided missile launching sites to possible targets, a study was made of their capabilities in geodesy through 1967, as well as their possible launching sites and ranges to NATO and SAC targets. The role of the Soviets' earth satellites to establishing geodetic ties was also examined.

3. A new series of Geographic Intelligence Memoranda (GM) was initiated to effectively relate the role of geographic factors to situations of some national intelligence concern. An illustrative map and brief text were prepared on the Kashmir question; on the role of the Sinai Peninsula in the Egyptian-Israeli conflict; on the discovery and exploitation of oil resources in Algeria; and on irrigation as a factor in the control of Israel.

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4. Geographic intelligence support for operational activity by DD/P resulted in the selection of a drop zone of considerable utility in the Far East, and in the preparation of detailed urban area studies leading to the selection of specific targets.

5. Geographic studies and maps were prepared in support of CIA and joint unconventional warfare operational planning activities. Through the unified commands, the respective service components have placed upon CIA requirements for the development of clandestine assets to perform various types of missions, such as escape and evasion support, sabotage and reception of Army Special Force teams. The Geographic Area has produced feasibility studies of countries and achieved standardization and compatibility of area selection to meet UW needs of the respective services.

6. National Intelligence Survey work, involving the preparation of comprehensive summary maps, featuring terrain representations uniquely developed for this purpose, have been completed. In addition, NIS Chapter IX maps in support of [REDACTED] on their contribution to the NIS program have been done. Other NIS work has involved the preparation and revision of numerous base maps, substantive maps, and the scheduled number of the Map and Chart Appraisal chapter and the map appraisal contribution to Chapter I.

7. A series of sixteen maps and charts featuring monitor and jammer locations in Eastern Europe was prepared for the Office of Scientific Intelligence.

8. In spite of Department of State personnel retrenchment efforts and a policy against hiring people from outside the Foreign Service, the Geographic Attache program was not only maintained at a level of six positions, but a seventh was added. These men are responsible for the conduct of the map procurement and geographic and cartographic reporting program in response to coordinated requirements from the Inter-Agency Map Procurement Coordinating Committee, [REDACTED]

The successful efforts to keep the map procurement program at a productive level has guaranteed for the mapping organizations and the intelligence community a continuing flow of full map procurement and cartographic reporting by qualified men.

9. Significant steps were made in the planned program for full cataloging of the map collection. It is expected that the goal of complete cataloging of the collection will be achieved by next September. This will increase the efficiency in the reference servicing of map holdings to requestors.

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10. A significant role was played in the final realization of a [REDACTED]
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for aerial photography and mapping of that country. The photography was
flown during October and November, 1957, and duplicate negatives are
currently on file in the Air Force.

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